

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL OECD CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

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BONN FOR INFO USEEC AND USOECD ALSO FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, EIND

SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

REF: A) STATE 76047 B) PARIS 10131

1. THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE (WOODS, AUSTRALIA) HAS ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN FOLLOWING THE APRIL 4-6 MEETING. THE USG HAS NOMINATED ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, FRANK WEIL, TO SUCCEED HIM. AS A RESULT OF THE APPROACH MADE BY USOECD IN PARIS (REF B), CAPITALS SHOULD ALREADY BE AWARE OF HIS CANDIDACY. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD FOLLOW UP WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEEK SUPPORT FOR WEIL'S ELECTION. AS REPORTED REF (B), THE FRG IS ACTIVELY SEEKING THE CHAIR FOR MRS. BUCHNER-SCHOPF. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR EMBASSIES TO MAKE PROMPT AND PERSUASIVE PRESENTATIONS BASED ON FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. UNDER WOODS' DIRECTION THE COMMITTEE HAS BEGUN TO CONCENTRATE ON TIMELY AND INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT MICRO-

ECONOMIC ISSUES. THIS WORK IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE MAJOR PROBLEMS TROUBLING THE DEVELOPED ECONOMIES. UNTIL RECENTLY THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON MACRO-ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL STUDIES OF BASIC INDUSTRIES (SHIP-BUILDING, PULP AND PAPER, CHEMICALS, ETC.). BY FOSTERING

SUCH A MICROECONOMIC CAPABILITY IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE ANALYSES ON THE MICRO LEVEL THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE XCSS ANALYSIS OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION. THE USG STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS APPROACH TO THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES.

3. AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRY AND TRADE, WEIL IS RESPONSIBLE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR ALL DOMESTIC INDUSTRY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE ISSUES. HE IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY, AND DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS EXTENSIVE BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE AND WOULD BRING VIGOROUS AND THOUGHTFUL LEADERSHIP TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

4. THE USG IS AWARE OF ONLY ONE OTHER CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP (BUCHNER-SCHOPF, GERMANY). WE THINK IT IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE GERMANS ALREADY HAVE THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEES.

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5. IN ORDER TO PERMIT US DEL TO INDUSTRY COMMITTEE TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING WEIL'S CANDIDACY, AN INDICATION OF HOST GOVERNMENT REACTION IS NEEDED BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FRIDAY, MARCH 31. COOPER

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